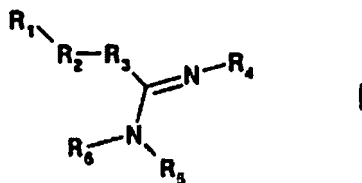


AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

Kindly amend the Claims as follows:

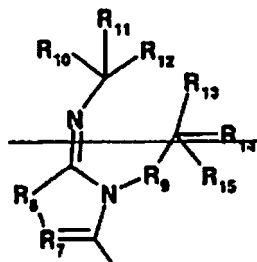
1. (Currently amended [second time]) A compound of formula I:



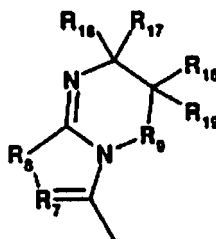
wherein

R₁ is a residue of formula (a), (b) or (c)

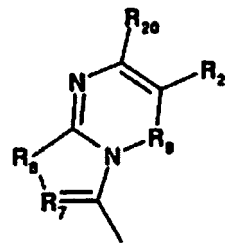
(a)



(b)



(c)



R₂ is $-(CR_{22}R_{23})_{1-3}-$ or $-C(O)-$;

each of R₃ and R₈ independently is S;

each of R₄ and R₅ independently is optionally R₂₅-substituted C₃-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl or saturated C₈₋₁₂-polycyclic residue; or optionally R₂₆- and/or R₂₇-substituted aryl, arylC₁₋₄-alkyl or heteroaryl; wherein up to 4 carbon atoms of R₄ and/or R₅ are optionally substituted by S, O or NR₂₄;

R₆ is H; C₁-C₆-alkyl; C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl; or optionally R₂₆- and/or R₂₇-substituted aryl, arylC₁₋₄-alkyl or heteroaryl;

R₇ is CR₂₈ or N;

R_9 is a direct bond; $-(CR_{22}R_{23})_{1-2}$; or NR_{24} ;

each of R_{10-23} , R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} , R_{19} , R_{20} , R_{21} , and R_{28} , independently, is H; F; Cl; Br; C_1 - C_6 -alkyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkoxyalkyl; C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl; C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl; optionally R_{26} - and/or R_{27} -substituted aryl or heteroaryl; $CONR_{29}R_{30}$; $COOR_{29}$; CN; NO_2 ; or OR_{31} ; or

~~two of R_{10-19} which are attached to the same carbon atom, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a 3-7 membered nonaromatic ring optionally containing up to two heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S; or R_{17} and R_{18} together with the C atoms to which they are attached, form a 4-7 membered nonaromatic ring optionally containing up to two heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S; or~~

~~R_{20} and R_{21} , together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form an optionally R_{26} - and/or R_{27} -substituted aryl or heteroaryl;~~

each of R_{24} , R_{29} and R_{30} , independently, is H; C_1 - C_6 -alkyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkoxyalkyl; C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl; C_3 - C_7 -cycloalkyl; or optionally R_{26} - and/or R_{27} -substituted aryl, aryl- C_{1-4} -alkyl or heteroaryl;

R_{25} represents 1-to-4 substituents each, independently, H; F; Cl; Br; C_1 - C_6 -alkyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkoxyalkyl; C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl; C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl; optionally R_{26} - and/or R_{27} -substituted aryl or heteroaryl; $CONR_{29}R_{30}$; $COOR_{29}$; CN; NO_2 ; or OR_{31}

~~having one of the significances given for R_{10-23} above;~~

R_{26} represents 1-to-4 substituents each, independently, selected from C_1 - C_6 -alkyl; C_1 - C_6 -hydroxyalkyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkoxyalkyl; C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl; C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl; C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkenyl; C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl; aryl; heteroaryl; heteroaryl N-oxide; F; Cl; Br; I; OH; OR_4 ; $CONH_2$; $CONHR_4$; $CONR_4R_4$; $OC(O)R_4$; $OC(O)OR_4$; $OC(O)NHR_4$; $OC(O)NR_4R_4$; OSO_2R_4 ; $COOH$; $COOR_4$; CF_3 ; CHF_2 ; CH_2F ; CN; NO_2 ; NH_2 ; NHR_4 ; NR_4R_4 ; $NHC(O)R_4$; $NR_4C(O)R_4$; $NHC(O)NHR_4$; $NHC(O)NH_2$; $NR_4C(O)NHR_4$; $NR_4C(O)NR_4R_4$; $NHC(O)OR_4$; $NR_4C(O)OR_4$; $NHSO_2R_4$; $N(SO_2R_4)_2$; $NR_4SO_2R_4$; SR_4 ; $S(O)R_4$; SO_2R_4 ; $Si(CH_3)_3$ and $B(OC(CH_3)_2)_2$;

R_{27} represents two adjacent substituents which form an annulated 4-7-membered nonaromatic ring optionally containing up to two heteroatoms selected,

independently, from N, O and S;

R₃₁ is C₁-C₆-alkyl; C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl; optionally R₂₆- and/or R₂₇-substituted aryl, arylC₁₋₄-alkyl or heteroaryl; or CF₃;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, which is selected from 1,3-dicyclohexyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cyclohexyl-3-cyclopentyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cycloheptyl-3-cyclohexyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicycloheptyl-2-(5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cyclohexyl-3-cyclooctyl-2-(5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicyclohexyl-2-(6,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicyclooctyl-2-(5,6-dihydro[[-]]imidazo[2,1b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea and 1,3-dicycloheptyl-2-(6,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea.

3. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in free form or in a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form ~~in association with~~ and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.

4-6. (Withdrawn by the Examiner)

7. (Withdrawn by the Examiner, subject to rejoinder)

8-15. (Withdrawn by the Examiner)